

HAGERTY/dmd/5286

November 29, 2000

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division

Mr. Wayne Farrand
Environmental Protection Division
Wastewater Section
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034

Dear Mr. Farrand:

The Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is currently preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the lease and development of Federal property to a non-profit group. In order to complete our EA, we respectfully request any information you may have regarding past variances that have been granted for systems and site considerations similar to those described below.

Our applicant proposes using the FAST system to treat wastewater. The FAST system includes an aerated primary wastewater treatment facility with a soil absorption field secondary disposal for treatment of wastes generated by the proposed facility. The average daily wastewater flow from the proposed facilities has been computed to be approximately 8,900 gallons/day, which would place this activity in the category of a semi-public sewage disposal system as defined in Chapter 64 of the Iowa Administrative Code. Based on tests performed onsite, the soils are considered adequate for a soil absorption disposal system using a loading rate of 2.0 square feet/gallon/day at a soil percolation rate of 45 minutes/inch. The absorption field required to treat the average daily flow is estimated to be 1.02 acres, based on the site conditions. The site is located adjacent to Coralville Lake and is fairly narrow. At this time, we are unable to site the wastewater treatment system, as proposed, because of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' separation distance criteria; 400 feet from impoundments and 1,000 feet from residences, without a variance from the State of Iowa.

In order to help us with our decision making process, we request a summary of the number, specific type, and site conditions for which variances have been issued. When the EA is completed and the lease is signed, the lease applicant will apply for a variance, if appropriate.

-2-

If you have questions or comments on this project, please call Ms. Karen Hagerty of our Environmental Analysis Section, telephone 309/794-5286, or Ms. Kara Mitvalsky of our Environmental Engineering Section, telephone 309/794-5623. Please respond within 30 days from the date of this letter. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

DORENE A. BOLLMAN

for

Kenneth A. Barr

Chief, Economic and Environmental
Analysis Branch

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Richard R. Rosenberger
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